

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter Amendments (A) through (F) provided below:

(A) Please insert the following headings and paragraph at Page 1, line 2 of the English translation of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the first full paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is being filed under Rule 1.371 as a National Stage Application of pending International Application No. PCT/EP2004/009396, which claims priority to the following parent application: German Patent Application No. 103 39 802.3 filed August 27, 2003. Both International Application No. PCT/EP2004/009396 and German Patent Application No. 103 39 802.3 are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

(B) Please insert the following heading at Page 1, line 7 of the English translation of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the second full paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(C) Please insert the following heading at Page 3 , line 21 of the the English translation of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the first full paragraph:

SUMMARY OF ADVANTAGEOUS EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

(D) Please insert the following heading at Page 3 , line 30 of the English translation of the Application-as-filed, immediately preceeding the last partial paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ADVANTAGEOUS EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

(E) Please substitute the last paragraph beginning at Page 5, line 27, and ending of the English translation of the Application-as-filed with the following replacement paragraph:

An important constituent of the casing is preferably "soft" synthetic polymers or polymer mixtures. To these belong aliphatic polyamides and aliphatic copolyamides such as nylon 6/66 (obtainable, for example, under the name ~~[[®]]Ultramid~~ ULTRAMID® C4 from BASF AG) or nylon 6/12 (obtainable, for example, under the names ~~[[®]]Grilon~~ GRILON® CF6S or ~~[[®]]Grilon~~ GRILON® BM 13 from Ems Chemie AG), polyether block amides (e.g. ~~[[®]]Grilon~~ GRILON® FE 7012 or ~~[[®]]Pebax~~ PEBAX® MH 1657 from Elf Atochem S.A.). In combination with other polymers, the casing can also comprise water-soluble polymers, such as polyvinylpyrrolidone or partially or completely saponified polyvinylacetate. Suitable polymers are also ionomers, such as ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid copolymers, or (meth)acrylic ester polymers (especially ethylene/methyl acrylate copolymers, ethylene/ethyl acrylate copolymers or ethylene/butyl acrylate copolymers). Further suitable polymers for the inventive casing are polyurethanes (e.g. ~~[[®]]Irogran~~ IROGRAN® VP 456/40), copolyesters (e.g. ~~[[®]]Arnitel~~ ARNITEL® PM 381 or PM 581) and biodegradable polyesters (e.g. ~~[[®]]Ecoflex~~ ECOFLEX®).